

Brass Bands England

Treasurer's Report for the AGM

Year ending 31 March 2023

The last financial year was both challenging and also very successful for BBE.

During the financial year we exceeded 500 member organisations, at the end of March 2023 we had 503 member organisations representing 568 bands and around 17,000 individuals. However, the lasting effects of the pandemic on Bands resulted in a challenging environment for BBE services such as BandSafe (our safeguarding training) and the BBE Project Management service. That said, we have been applauded many times for the support that we gave Bands during these difficult times including the Government's Departure for Culture, Media and Sport and many member bands. I am pleased to say that, with member bands activities returning to pre pandemic levels, our Bandsafe and Project Management services have returned to the expected, budgeted level, in the current (23-24) financial year.

Looking at the Accounts prepared by Gibson Booth, our "independent examiners", charity speak for accountants.

Revenues for the year stood at £554,446, consisting of £525,092 of grants and donations and £29,354 from our trading activities. Our key funder remained the Arts Council England, contributing £374,909 in total, membership subscriptions totalled £54,532.

Our expenditure for the year was £615,446, the largest contributor to this figure being salaries and associated costs of £315,561; this figure also includes several project costs including Unibrass, the Brass Band Archive and other various Projects, events and workshops undertaken during the year and also the costs associated with Bandsafe, Project Management Services and Fundraising Services.

In total our expenditure during the financial year exceeded our income by £66,593 – reported as a loss on the P&L which was funded from reserves. To explain this a little more; following on from a very strong 21-22 financial year where we closed the year with a good amount of surplus funds, we took the decision to spend £36k of these funds on various projects and a further £30k keeping the Brass Foundations delivery team in place prior to us knowing the outcome of the 23 – 26 funding round.

BBE cash flow remains strong; at the end of March 2023 cash in the bank remained a healthy £114,033.

Unrestricted Reserves, the amount of money set aside to cover the costs of closure of the operation, stood at £66857. This is less than advised by the Charity Commission's guidelines so the shortfall will be made up over the subsequent five financial years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our independent examiners Gibson Booth for preparing the year end accounts and advice during the year and would like to thank our inhouse finance team, led by the amazing Bev Shephard, one of the most knowledgeable and talented charity sector finance managers I have ever met, for their expertise and tenacity in keeping BBE on track financially for another year.

Paul Beaumont – Treasurer, BBE